

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1974
(SALT TWO - 431)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR
JOHNSON AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1974.

MR. MINISTER:

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I REPEAT MY WELCOME TO YOU, MR. MINISTER, AND TO THE
MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION AS WE RESUME OUR
NEGOTIATIONS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONSTRUCTIVE AND BUSINESS-
LIKE EXCHANGES BETWEEN US IN THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO REACH
MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY LIMITATIONS ON STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

I INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION:
AN EMINENT AMERICAN SCIENTIST, DR. MICHAEL M. MAY OF THE
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LAWRENCE LIVERMORE LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

I ALSO PRESENT THE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF OUR DELEGATION, RICHARD B. L. CREECY, WHO COMES TO US FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY AFTER A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

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SINCE OUR DELEGATIONS LAST CONVENED, THE FOCUS OF OUR TASK IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN REDEFINED.

MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN MOSCOW, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN JULY OF THIS YEAR AGREED THAT THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN MEASURES ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A NEW AGREEMENT. THEY AGREED THAT THIS NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD COVER THE PERIOD UNTIL 1985. ADDITIONALLY, IT SHOULD DEAL WITH BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE LIMITATIONS. FINALLY, IT SHOULD BE COMPLETED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE, BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT.

THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT GOVERN OUR NEGOTIATIONS HAVE THUS BEEN MODIFIED. PREVIOUSLY WE HAD ADDRESSED OURSELVES TO THE PREPARATION OF A PERMANENT AGREEMENT. THAT AGREEMENT WAS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN FORCE FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME. IN CONTRAST WE ARE NOW INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE A NEW AGREEMENT THAT WILL COVER A DEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME, NAMELY, UNTIL THE YEAR 1985. COMPLETION OF THIS NEW AGREEMENT BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD ESTABLISH LIMITATIONS ON STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS FOR A PERIOD AS LONG AS TEN YEARS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HOPE SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD MARK STILL ANOTHER STEP IN OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR.

THE EXISTENCE OF A DEFINITE TIME PERIOD FOR THE AGREEMENT INTRODUCES A NEW FACTOR FOR OUR NEGOTIATIONS. THE CONSEQUENT OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPLICATIONS NEED TO BE FULLY EXPLORED BY BOTH DELEGATIONS.

SINCE THE MOSCOW SUMMIT MEETING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REEXAMINING, AND IS CONTINUING TO REEXAMINE, ITS
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POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF THIS NEW UNDERSTANDING. WHILE WE CONSIDER THAT OUR PREVIOUS POSITIONS REMAIN VALID, WE ARE APPROACHING THIS STAGE OF OUR WORK WITH AN OPEN MIND. I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR DELEGATION, MR. MINISTER, WILL JOIN US IN TAKING A FRESH LOOK AT OUR NEW NEGOTIATING TASK OF PREPARING AN AGREEMENT OF DEFINITE DURATION. WE NEED TO EXAMINE HOW THE GOAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR A LIMITED TIME PERIOD, IN CONTRAST TO ONE OF UNLIMITED DURATION, AFFECTS OUR EFFORTS TO REACH

EQUITABLE LIMITATIONS ON STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. WE NEED TO DECIDE HOW TO INCLUDE BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE LIMITATIONS IN AN AGREEMENT THAT EXTENDS UNTIL 1985. WE NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER SOME ISSUES COULD NOW BE HANDLED IN A MANNER DIFFERENT FROM WHAT MIGHT HAVE SEEMED REQUIRED IN A PERMANENT AGREEMENT.

FOR EXAMPLE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE AGREED TIME FRAMEWORK UNTIL 1985 PROVIDES A REALISTIC PERIOD OVER WHICH BOTH SIDES CAN FORECAST TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND PROJECT THEIR RESPECTIVE STRATEGIC NEEDS. IT PROVIDES A SUFFICIENT PERIOD TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE EFFECTS WHICH STRATEGIC DECISIONS TAKEN BY ONE SIDE HAVE ON THE DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE OTHER. IT CAN FACILITATE DECISIONS ON STRATEGIC FORCES THAT WOULD PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AGREED CEILINGS AND A PROGRAM OF PHASED REDUCTIONS. IT CAN ASSIST IN DETERMINING THE PACE AT WHICH CEILINGS ARE REACHED AND REDUCTIONS ACHIEVED. IT PROVIDES A REALISTIC TIME FRAME TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE SYSTEMS WITH RESPECT TO STRATEGIC STABILITY.

YOU AS WELL AS WE MAY HAVE OTHER TOPICS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IS ENTIRELY PREPARED TO EXPLORE AREAS WHICH PERHAPS HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY EXAMINED. WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXISTENCE OF A DEFINITE TIME FRAME FOR A NEW AGREEMENT PROVIDES BOTH SIDES WITH A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE AHEAD. WE ARE READY TO CONSIDER ALL FACETS OF THE PROBLEM IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS FRESH OPPORTUNITY. JOHNSON

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